T R A N S L A T I O N.
Original despatch in Assamese.
English office copy.

Acc. 47/52

CONFIDENTIAL.

By Hand of Bearer.

NAGA NATIONAL COUNCIL
PRESIDENT

NAGA NATIONAL COUNCIL,
KOHIMA, NAGA HILLS.

No. NNC/52/Pres/47. Kohima, the 14th August 1952.

To

Sjt. Tati Lego,
Political Officer,
Siang Frontier Division,
Pasighat.

Dear Brother Lego,

It is one year and more since we sat together, and what passed between us is yet with me. You will recall we did not part of one mind; yet I left your house with respect, and that is in no way altered.

The Abor people and the Naga people are not strangers. Our ridges meet. Our fathers walked the same forests. We were never of India. We were never of Burma. The British came and the British went, and they gave us to no man.

Now Delhi is sending its officers deeper into the Abor Hills, and they shall not halt at Mebo or Riga. After the road shall come the tax; after the tax, the soldier; after the soldier, the school in which your sons shall be told that the tongue of their fathers is a small matter in their own country. You have worn the King's uniform; you know what an army does when it stays.

The thing I lay before our hill peoples is this. Let each people stand upon its own ground. Let the Naga, the Abor, the Lushai, the Khasi, each be sovereign in its own right, and let our countries together form a line of free states between India and China and Burma. The enemy of none; the subject of none.

You told me, brother, that we cannot stand alone. I say we cannot stand at all once we are within. The treaty we have not signed cannot be broken upon us. The treaty we sign shall be.

Lay this letter, I beg of you, before the men of weight among the Abor, and return me your answer without disguise. Should they sit with us, the Council shall come to any place of their own naming, in the hills, beyond hearing of strangers.

May Almighty God preserve you and your people.

Yours in our common cause,

(Sd/-) A. Z. PHIZO,
President,
Naga National Council.

True copy. (Sd/- illegible.)
C.c. to:- Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee.